

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Original) A process for producing levodione from ketoisophorone which comprises contacting ketoisophorone with NADPH dehydrogenase in the presence of NADH or NADPH in an aqueous medium, and isolating the resulted levodione from the reaction mixture.

Claim 2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the NADPH dehydrogenase is old yellow enzyme defined by the enzyme class EC 1.6.99.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~claims~~ 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the enzyme is obtainable from a microorganism suitable for the production of the NADPH dehydrogenase.

Claim 4. (Original) The process according to claim 3, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group of genera consisting of *Saccharomyces*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Candida*, *Gluconobacter*, *Beneckea*, and *Vibrio*.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~claims~~ 3 ~~or~~ 4, wherein the microorganism is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~claims 3 or 4~~, wherein the microorganism is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* S288C (ATCC 204508), a functional equivalent, subculture, mutant or variant thereof.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the NADPH dehydrogenase is old yellow enzyme encoded by the *oye2* or *oye3* gene derived from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* S288C (ATCC 204508).

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the reaction is carried out at pH values of from 4.5 to 8.5 and at a temperature in the range of from 20 to 40°C.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the reaction is carried out at pH values of from 5.0 to 8.0 and at a temperature in the range of from 25 to 35°C.

Claim 10. (Original) A process for producing levodione from ketoisophorone which comprises contacting ketoisophorone with a transformed microorganism expressing NADPH dehydrogenase or a cell-free extract thereof in the presence of NADH or NADPH in an aqueous medium, and isolating the obtained levodione from the reaction mixture.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the transformed ~~recombinant~~ microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~claims~~ 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the NADPH dehydrogenase is old yellow enzyme defined by the enzyme class EC 1.6.99.

Claim 13. (Original) The process according to claim 10, wherein the enzyme expressed by the transformed microorganism is derivable from a microorganism selected from the group consisting of the genera *Saccharomyces*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Candida*, *Gluconobacter*, *Beneckea*, and *Vibrio*.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~any one~~ ~~of claims~~ 10 ~~to 13~~, wherein the enzyme expressed by the transformed microorganism is derived from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, ~~preferably *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* S288C (ATCC 204508).~~

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~any one~~ ~~of claims~~ 10 ~~to 14~~, wherein the NADPH dehydrogenase expressed by the transformed microorganism is old yellow enzyme encoded by the *oye2* or *oye3* gene derived from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* S288C (ATCC 204508).

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~any one~~
~~of claims 10 to 15~~, wherein the reaction is carried out at pH values of from 4.5 to 8.5
and at a temperature in the range of from 20 to 40°C.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The process according to claim ~~any one~~
~~of claims 10 to 15~~, wherein the reaction is carried out at pH values of from 5.0 to 8.0
and at a temperature in the range of from 25 to 35°C.

Claim 18. (Cancelled).

Claim 19. (New) The process according to claim 2, wherein the enzyme
is obtainable from a microorganism suitable for the production of the old yellow
enzyme.

Claim 20. (New) The process according to claim 11, wherein the NADPH
dehydrogenase is old yellow enzyme defined by the enzyme class EC 1.6.99.

Claim 21. (New) The process according to claim 14, wherein the
microorganism is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* S288C (ATCC 204508).